



## States get go-ahead to build electric car charging stations

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — States are getting the go-ahead to build a nationwide network of electric vehicle charging stations that would place new or upgraded ones every 50 miles (80 kilometers) along interstate highways as part of the Biden administration's plan to spur widespread adoption of the zero-emission cars. The administration on Thursday announced the availability of \$5 billion in federal money to states over five years under President Joe Biden's infrastructure law, sketching out a vision of seamless climate-friendly car travel from coast to coast. Under Transportation Department requirements, states must submit plans to the federal government and can begin construction by this fall if they focus first on highway routes, rather than neighborhoods and shopping centers, that can allow people to take their electric vehicles long distances. Each station would need to have at least four fast-charger ports, which enable drivers to fully recharge their vehicles in about an hour. Many technical details are to be worked out, and the administration acknowledges it will take work to persuade drivers accustomed to gas-powered cars, particularly in rural areas. The money is far less than the \$15 billion that Biden had envisioned to fulfill a campaign promise of 500,000 charging stations by 2030, and it may take substantial private investment to make the plan work.

Continued on Page 2



Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, second from right, speaks during an event at the Transportation Department in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, announcing a historic investment in the U.S. electric vehicle charging networks.

Associated Press

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## States get go-ahead to build electric car charging stations

Continued from Front

"A century ago, America ushered in the modern automotive era; now America must lead the electric vehicle revolution," said Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who will have final signoff over most aspects of the funding. Buttigieg made the announcement in front of the Transportation Department along with White House officials, flanked by a pair of black Ford Mustang Mach-E SUVs in the federal government's growing electric fleet that he and Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm drive. The vehicle's retail price starts around \$44,000 and climbs



**Chargers for electric cars are displayed at an opening ceremony for a Revel electric vehicle charging hub in the Brooklyn borough of New York, on June 29, 2021.**

Associated Press

to \$60,000-plus including options, and they are currently made in Mexico. Buttigieg made a special appeal to rural drivers, suggesting that big wide open

spaces of the U.S. no longer need to be a "valley of death" for EV drivers. "Many might think of them as a luxury item," he said. "The reality is nobody ben-

efits more from EVs in principle than those who drive the longest distances, often our rural Americans." The law provides an additional \$2.5 billion for local grants, planned for later this year, to fill remaining gaps in the charging network in rural areas and in disadvantaged communities, which currently are less likely to own the higher-priced electric vehicles. States failing to meet all the federal requirements risk delays in getting approval from the Federal Highway Administration or not getting money at all. Biden also has set a goal of 50% electric vehicle sales by 2030, part of a broader effort to become zero

emissions economy-wide by 2050.

Electric vehicles amounted to less than 3% of U.S. new auto sales last year, but forecasters expect big increases in the next decade. Consumers bought about 400,000 fully electric vehicles. According to a Consumer Reports survey, anxiety about limited range and the availability of charging stations were among the top concerns consumers had about owning an EV.

"It's going to help ensure that America leads the world on electric vehicles," Biden said this week about American companies expanding EV infrastructure. "China has been leading the race up to now, but this is about to change," he said. "Because America is building convenient, reliable, equitable national public charging networks. So wherever you live, charging an electric vehicle will be quick and easy." Granholm described the initial \$5 billion investment as creating "the spine" of the national network. Alluding to surging gasoline prices, said the aim of the new stations is to build "the necessary infrastructure for drivers across America to save money and go the distance."

The environmental group Natural Resources Defense Council praised the administration's quick start but said much work remains to be done. It said states, utilities and private companies will need to step up and fill gaps in funding to ensure a full public charging system by 2035, estimated to cost as much as \$39 billion.

"We have no time to lose," the group said in a statement. □

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# Congress approves sex harassment bill in #MeToo milestone

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Congress on Thursday gave final approval to legislation guaranteeing that people who experience sexual harassment at work can seek recourse in the courts, a milestone for the #MeToo movement that prompted a national reckoning on the way sexual misconduct claims are handled.

The measure, which is expected to be signed by President Joe Biden, bars employment contracts from forcing people to settle sexual assault or harassment cases through arbitration rather than in court, a process that often benefits employers and keeps misconduct allegations from becoming public.

Significantly, the bill is retroactive, nullifying that language in contracts nationwide and opening the door for people who had been bound by it to take legal action.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who has spearheaded the effort, called it "one of the most significant workplace reforms in American history."

Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said the arbitration process is secretive and biased and denies people a basic constitutional right: a day in court. "No longer will survivors of



**Former Fox News anchor Gretchen Carlson, center, celebrates with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., left, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., after Congress gave final approval to legislation guaranteeing that people who experience sexual harassment at work can seek recourse in the courts, during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022.**

Associated Press

sexual assault or harassment in the workplace come forward and be told that they are legally forbidden to sue their employer because somewhere in buried their employment contracts was this forced arbitration clause," she said.

Gillibrand, who has focused on combating sexual harassment and sexual misconduct in the military, originally introduced the

legislation in 2017 with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

The legislation had uncommonly broad, bipartisan support in a divided Congress. That allowed the bill to be passed in the Senate by unanimous consent — a procedure almost never used for significant legislation, especially one affecting tens of millions of Americans. The House passed the bill this week on a robust bipartisan basis in a 335-97

vote.

Former Fox News anchor Gretchen Carlson, who accused the now-deceased network CEO Roger Ailes of making unwanted advances and harming her career when she rejected him, testified in support of the legislation. Some employee contracts at the network included binding arbitration clauses.

Carlson, who appeared with Gillibrand and other

senators at a news conference after Senate passage of the bill, said she could never have imagined, after coming forward with her allegations five years ago, that it would lead to a change in the law that both Democrats and Republicans would get behind.

"Marching in the streets can inspire us. Editorials can open our minds. Hashtags can galvanize, but legislation is the only thing that lasts," Carlson said.

An estimated 60 million American workers have clauses tucked into their employment contracts forcing them to settle any allegations of sexual misconduct in private arbitration proceedings, rather than in court. The widespread practice has come under fire in the wake of the #MeToo movement for forcing employees to seek recourse without a jury, a chance to appeal a decision or the sunlight of a public court process.

"If you could ever say any legislation was long overdue, this is it," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. He called it "almost medieval" to force victims of harassment and assault "to shut up, not tell anyone about it and not seek justice." □

# Black members of Biden's Cabinet to mark Black History Month

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The six Black members of President Joe Biden's Cabinet are meeting for a Black History Month event Thursday highlighting their roles in the administration, some of which are historic firsts.

Actor Taraji P. Henson and athletes Sloane Stephens and Nneka Ogumike will also be on hand for a separate discussion of the importance of mental health and wellness in the Black community.

The White House said the six heads of big federal departments and smaller agencies would take part in a moderated roundtable discussion to highlight the importance of Black lead-

ership in the military, foreign affairs, the economy and other key policy areas.

Scheduled to appear during the livestreamed event are Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, the first Black person in the post; Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge; Environmental Protection Agency chief Michael Regan, the first Black man in that role; U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield; and Cecilia Rouse, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. Rouse is the first Black woman to lead the council.

Also scheduled to participate is Shalanda Young, acting director of the White

House Office of Management and Budget. Young is awaiting a vote by the Senate to confirm her as director. She would be the first Black woman to lead the office if confirmed, which is expected.

Biden promised the most diverse Cabinet in U.S. history.

The event with the Cabinet members will be followed by a separate livestreamed discussion on the importance of mental health and wellness in the Black community, hosted by Susan Rice, Biden's domestic policy adviser, and Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, who oversees the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



**Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks during a media briefing at the Pentagon, Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, in Washington.**

Associated Press

Henson, tennis pro Stephens and WNBA player Ogumike will share personal stories about mental health and wellness, the

White House said.

Biden issued a proclamation in January designating February as National Black History Month. □



# N.Y. clamps down on businesses offering marijuana as a 'gift'

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — While New York works on launching a legal market for recreational marijuana, some entrepreneurs dove into a legal gray area by saying they're not selling pot but giving it away while people buy something else. Now, the state is saying they have jumped the gun and need to stop. The Office of Cannabis Management said Tuesday it sent letters to more than two dozen enterprises it suspects of illegally selling weed. They were told to stop or face fines, potential criminal charges and risk to their prospects of getting a license once they are available.

"New York state is building a legal, regulated cannabis market that will ensure products are tested and safe for consumers" and will provide opportunities for people affected by the enforcement of now-scrapped marijuana laws, OCM Executive Director Chris Alexander said in a statement. "Illegal operations undermine our ability to do that." The state law that legalized recreational marijuana last spring doesn't discuss such "gifts" but does allow "transferring, without compensation" small amounts of



Marijuana and a pipe used to smoke it are displayed on a mirror in New York on June 20, 2018.

Associated Press

pot. The agency wouldn't say what entities got letters. Messages were left with several businesses that have gone public about providing weed in what they insist is a legal way. HempSol CBD owner Jim Mackenzie said Wednesday his shop in Rochester didn't get a letter but will nonetheless stop offering a "gift" of marijuana to customers who buy a T-shirt or other garment — a deal he believed was legal. "But I'm going to do what the state wants because my goal is to have a state (marijuana) license," said

Mackenzie. He feels the state would be wiser to get to know businesses like his shop, where he prides himself on educating customers about cannabis. CBD is a popular non-intoxicating chemical that's prevalent in hemp, a form of cannabis that Congress legalized in 2018. "It's really in their best interest to work with the people who are actually trying to do it correctly and actually have knowledge in this industry," he said. As the state works out rules to apply for licenses to sell marijuana, some busi-

nesses have started offering the drug as a "gift" to people who make what's described as a donation, or who buy art or some other item. Others say they're clubs that acquire cannabis and provide their paying members with access to it. To the state cannabis office, illegal sales "include so-called 'gifting' where consumers purchase non-cannabis items or services, such as a membership in a club, and are then provided cannabis as part of the sale," according to a sample warning letter that the agency released.

The letter, which tells recipients to stop "illegal activity" immediately, comes after state Cannabis Control Board Chair Tremaine Wright warned in October of "severe financial penalties" for pot "gifting" connected to sales of other goods and services.

No such letter has arrived at Happy Munkey, a New York City-based business that has put on "bring your own" cannabis-themed events where goodie bags included a joint, spokesperson Stu Zakim said. He says that's not "gifting" tied to a purchase, but rather "doing what any sponsor does — provide a goodie bag to give away their product to help influence people."

While the cannabis agency's action might not affect Happy Munkey, Zakim called it "offensive and insulting." He said it would turn established underground sellers off the idea of engaging in the coming legal market, rather than continuing unlicensed, untaxed sales.

New York is expected to become one of the biggest U.S. legal marijuana markets. Making a name in the market early is a big attraction to many entrepreneurs, who have already waited almost a year since the legalization measure passed last March. □



Gamal Abdelaziz arrives at federal court for his trial, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — A former casino executive who was one of just two parents to go to trial in the sprawling college admissions bribery scandal was sentenced Wednesday to serve one

year and one day in federal prison, the stiffest sentence so far handed down in the case, federal prosecutors said. Gamal Abdelaziz was also ordered to serve two years

## Parent in college bribery scandal gets year in prison

of supervised release, 400 hours of community service and pay a fine of \$250,000 in the sentence handed down by Judge Nathaniel Gorton in Boston federal court.

Abdelaziz didn't comment after the sentencing, but in court apologized to his family and friends and asked the judge for mercy. His lawyer Brian Kelly plans to appeal and "vindicate" his client.

The 65-year-old Las Vegas resident was convicted of fraud and bribery conspiracy in October after prosecutors said he paid \$300,000 to get his daughter

into the University of Southern California as a basketball recruit even though she didn't even make it onto her high school's varsity team.

In legal filings ahead of Wednesday's sentencing, Abdelaziz's lawyers sought a four-month prison stint. They argued their client shouldn't receive a substantially higher sentence than other defendants just because he decided to fight the charges in court. The other parent is John Wilson, a former Staples Inc. executive who was also convicted in October and faces sentencing later

this month.

Prosecutors, however, sought 14 months in prison for Abdelaziz, arguing the former Wynn Resorts executive failed to accept responsibility for his actions. Dozens of other defendants have already pleaded guilty in the scheme and served their time.

"Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman was sentenced to 14 days in prison.

"Full House" star Lori Loughlin was sentenced to two months and her fashion designer husband Mossimo Giannulli was sentenced to five months. □



# Truckers' bridge blockade forces shutdowns at auto plants

By **ROB GILLIES** and **TOM KRISHER**

**Associated Press**

**TORONTO (AP)** — The truck blockade by Canadians protesting the country's COVID-19 restrictions is tightening the screws on the auto industry, forcing Ford, General Motors and other car companies to shut down plants or otherwise scale back production on both sides of the U.S. border.

The bumper-to-bumper demonstration by the self-proclaimed Freedom Convoy entered its fourth day Thursday at the Ambassador Bridge connecting Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit, disrupting the flow of auto parts and other products between the two countries. Meanwhile, the U.S. braced for the possibility of similar truck-borne protests inspired by the Canadians, and authorities in Paris and Belgium banned road blockades to head off disruptions there, too.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said in a bulletin to local and state law enforcement agencies that it has received reports that truckers are planning to "potentially block roads in major metropolitan cities" in a protest against vaccine mandates and other issues.

The agency said the convoy could begin in Southern



**A trucker supporter sits on a couch as they block the access leading from the Ambassador Bridge, linking Detroit and Windsor, as truckers and their supporters continue to protest against the COVID-19 vaccine mandates and restrictions in Windsor, Ontario, on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

California as early as this weekend, possibly disrupting traffic around the Super Bowl, and reach Washington in March in time for the State of the Union, according to a copy of Tuesday's bulletin obtained by The Associated Press. It said that the protest could be disruptive and tie up traffic but that there have been no calls for violence.

The ban on road blockades in Europe and the threat of prison and heavy fines were likewise prompted by online chat groups

that have been calling on drivers to converge on Paris starting Friday night and to continue on to Brussels on Monday.

The Ambassador Bridge is the busiest U.S.-Canadian border crossing, carrying 25% of all trade between the two countries, and the effects of the blockade there were felt rapidly.

Ford said its Windsor, Ontario, engine plant reopened Thursday after being shut down on Wednesday because of a lack of parts. But the factory and the

company's assembly plant in Oakville, Ontario, near Toronto, were operating at reduced capacity, the automaker said.

On the U.S. side, GM canceled the second shift on Wednesday and the first shift on Thursday at its SUV factory outside Lansing, Michigan.

Toyota said it will not be able to manufacture anything at three Canadian plants for the rest of the week because of parts shortages. Honda reported that its plant in Alliston,

Ontario, north of Toronto, had to suspend production on one assembly line on Wednesday, but that it was back in operation Thursday.

Stellantis, formerly Fiat Chrysler, said it was forced to shorten shifts at several plants.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer urged Canadian authorities to quickly resolve the standoff at the bridge.

"It's hitting paychecks and production lines. That is unacceptable," she said in a statement.

Hundreds of demonstrators in trucks have also paralyzed the streets of downtown Ottawa for almost two weeks now and maintained blockades at two border crossings besides Windsor — at Coutts, Alberta, opposite Montana, and at Emerson, Manitoba, across from North Dakota.

The protesters are decrying vaccine mandates for truckers and other COVID-19 restrictions and railing against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, even though many of Canada's precautions, such as mask rules and vaccine passports for getting into restaurants, theaters and other places, were enacted by provincial authorities, not the federal government, and are rapidly being lifted as the omicron surge levels off. □

# Denmark may allow U.S. troops on its soil, pact in the works

**HELSINKI (AP)** — Denmark says it will begin negotiations on a new defense cooperation agreement with the U.S. that may include allowing American troops and military equipment to be stationed on Danish soil — in reversal of a decades-old policy. But Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen stressed to reporters Thursday that the move is not due to current tensions between Russia and Ukraine. She said talks on intensifying military cooperation between Copenhagen and Washington have been in the works for a long time. The potential new Danish-American defense coop-

eration deal "is a breakthrough after many decades" of a policy against allowing foreign troops to be stationed on Danish soil, she told Danish media.

"An increased American commitment here in Denmark will improve the access of the United States to the European continent," Frederiksen said, as quoted by Danish public broadcaster DR.

Danish Defense Minister Morten Boedskov told reporters that no American military bases would be established in Denmark, and he declined to comment on where U.S. troops would be placed in the country.

Danish broadcaster TV2 said the Danish government is seeking to strike a similar kind of defense deal with Washington as neighboring Norway did in May 2021. Both Scandinavian countries are staunch NATO allies of the U.S.

With its treaty with Washington, Norway has allowed unhindered access to U.S. troops that can move freely in and out of the country. However, they must respect Norwegian law, meaning — among other things — that the U.S. cannot send nuclear weapons, landmines or cluster bombs with its soldiers to Norwegian soil. □



**Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, center, Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod, left and Minister of Defense Morten Boedskov, right, give a press conference on Denmark's cooperation with the United States, in the Prime Minister's Office at Christiansborg Castle, Copenhagen, Denmark, Thursday Feb. 10, 2022.**

**Associated Press**



# Latvia passes long-awaited Holocaust restitution law

By JARI TANNER

**HELSINKI (AP)** — Latvia's parliament passed a Holocaust restitution bill Thursday that includes compensation for lost Jewish property and funding to revitalize the Baltic nation's Jewish community, which was almost completely wiped out during World War II. Following years of wrangling over the issue, the 100-seat Saeima voted 64-21 to approve the Law on the Compensation of Goodwill to the Latvian Jewish Community on the bill's final reading.

Arkady Sukharenko, chairman of the Latvian Council of Jewish Communities, praised "this historic step" taken by lawmakers.

"Finalizing this process demonstrates that even 77 years after the end of the Holocaust, it is never too late for justice," he said.

Lengthy negotiations involving the World Jewish Restitution Organization, or WJRO, Latvian Jewish representatives and government authorities started in 2005. The United States and Israel also were involved in the talks.

The bill authorizes spending 40 million euros (\$45 million) over 10 years to revitalize Latvia's 9,500-strong Jewish community, provide social and material assistance to Holocaust survivors, and to fund Jewish schools, build-



The memorial on the ruins of the Riga Choral Synagogue burned to the ground by Nazis in 1941, in memory of those who perished in the blaze, in Riga, Latvia, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022.

Associated Press

ing restoration and cultural projects.

"For the (Jewish) community, we hope now to turn the page and close the book of World War II and its legacy," Dmitry Krupnikov, head of the Latvian Jewish Community Restitution Fund, told The Associated Press. "It would be very good to put that behind us. We have a lot of things to address in the present conditions that we have here." U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken tweeted praise for "Latvia's ongoing work to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and pro-

mote education about this dark period in history." Passing the bill "shows true commitment to addressing Holocaust-era property theft," Blinken said.

WJRO operations chair Gideon Taylor also welcomed the legislation.

"The legislation adopted today is a meaningful acknowledgement of the unique tragedy that befell Latvian Jewry, and a powerful statement of Latvia's abiding goodwill to its Jewish community and to Latvian Holocaust survivors," Taylor said in a statement to the AP.

Latvia was occupied in June 1940 by the Soviet Red Army, which was pushed away a year later by Nazi Germany's advancing troops. Moscow retook Latvia in late 1944, and the country remained part of the Soviet Union until it gained independence in 1991.

Some 95,000 Jewish people lived in Latvia before the World War II. The thriving prewar community suffered enormous losses during the Nazi occupation. By the time the Red Army reoccupied Latvia, an estimated 90% of the country's

Jews had perished.

Jewish community members were prevented from recovering the property they owned in June 1940, when Latvia's first Soviet occupation started, due near-total destruction. The Soviet Union first seized those properties, which were then taken over by the Nazis, again nationalized by the Soviet Union and later become property of the Latvian state.

After independence in 1991, Latvia introduced laws on returning nationalized property. But the issue was left unresolved with no one left to claim the assets of Jews. The remuneration provided in the legislation refers to "goodwill compensation" by Latvia, a nation of 2.8 million, for unrecovered Jewish property.

"We're not going to ask the properties to be returned," Krupnikov said. "It is impossible to return them 25 years after privatization was finished. Somebody's been using them, somebody's been renovating them, somebody's been improving them. Taking that property from them would be incorrect."

The legislation states that the Latvian state is not responsible for the Holocaust during the occupation of Latvia and the actions of the Soviet occupation regime. □

# Iran unveils new missile with reported region-wide range



In this photo released Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, by Sepahnews of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, surface-to-surface "Khaibar-buster" missile is displayed in an undisclosed location in Iran.

Associated Press

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran unveiled a new missile on Wednesday with a report-

ed range that would allow it to reach both U.S. bases in the region and targets in-

side its archfoe Israel.

State TV reported that the missile uses solid fuel and has a range of 1,450 kilometers (900 miles). It is called the Khaibar-buster, a reference to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim warriors in the early days of Islam.

The report said the missile has high accuracy, is manufactured completely domestically, and can defeat missile shield systems. The information has not been independently verified.

Israel's closest point to Iran is some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away. Iran has missiles that can travel up to 2,000 kilometers (1,250

miles).

The report comes as negotiations continue in Vienna to revive Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers. Iran, which has long said it does not seek nuclear weapons, insists its missile program is only a deterrent.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday spoke with King Salman of Saudi Arabia. The White House said Biden briefed the Saudi leader on the multilateral talks aimed at getting Iran to return to compliance. Former President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal in 2018.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Wednesday a deal is "in sight" but warned that "if it's not reached in the coming weeks Iran's nuclear advances will make it impossible" for the U.S. to return to the deal.

Earlier in January Iran tested an engine for a solid-fuel rocket designed to launch satellites. Satellite carriers usually use liquid fuel but solid-fuel rockets can be adapted for mobile launchers that can be driven anywhere on a major road or rail system. Pure solid-fuel rockets are mostly associated with ballistic missiles systems. □





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SCAN ME





## Mexico vows to press on with power changes amid U.S. concerns

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico's president vowed Thursday to press ahead with changes to the electrical power industry despite U.S. concerns that they could close off markets, choke off competition and possibly violate the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade pact. After meeting with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador on Wednesday, U.S. climate envoy John Kerry expressed "significant concerns" over Mexico's plan to favor its state-owned electricity company and limit private and foreign firms that have invested in renewable power in Mexico. López Obrador said Thursday the proposed changes "don't affect the treaty at all," despite provisions in the

USMCA pact that prohibit countries from favoring domestic companies over foreign competitors. But he acknowledged foreign companies have been complaining that the change in rules would affect investor confidence in Mexico. "They say the rule of law is being violated, they want to expropriate the electrical industry, there are no guarantees for investors in Mexico, we have no confidence," López Obrador said, adding, "We are not going to get in a fight with the U.S. government." U.S. firms have complained bitterly about the constitutional changes proposed in October. They are still held up in the Mexican Congress, where they need



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks during a ceremony to commemorate in Mexico City's main square the Zocalo, Aug. 13, 2021.


Associated Press

a two-thirds majority that López Obrador hasn't yet been able to pull together.

In a statement, the U.S. Embassy said that in Wednesday's meetings, Kerry

"raised the significant concerns the Biden-Harris Administration has about Mexico's current energy-sector proposal and the imperative to bolster open and competitive economies, consistent with USMCA." The changes would guarantee a majority market share for Mexico's state-owned power plants that often burn dirty fuel oil or coal, while limiting private wind, natural gas and solar plants to a minority market share. Many U.S. companies operating in Mexico either invested in cleaner power plants themselves or rely on cheaper energy produced by them. □

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Complete Romance Menu	AWG 105 (US\$60)	
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## Harbour House Aruba officially open!

**80 % sold, construction in final phase: Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!**



**ORANJESTAD** — It was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba last Thursday, June 10th. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J.

Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what



still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

### Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

### Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 50.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks. For more information: <https://harbourhousearuba.com>

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## Romance Blooms at the Hilton on Valentine's Weekend

**PALM BEACH** - The Holiday dedicated to love will be celebrated Valentine's Day weekend at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino with a bouquet of activities inspiring friendship, affection and love.

At eforea spa, a special Valentine's menu for two, beckons patrons with a number of innovative treatments. The Mint Chocolate Toes for Two is an indulgent pedicure beginning with a butter brûlée milk soak, followed by smoothing and exfoliation with a fine-grain, sweet cream, salt scrub. Next a hot chocolate mask is applied loaded with nourishing vitamins and CoQ10 – powerful antioxidants, and finally, a massage with minty shea butter leaves, leaving you with a fresh and invigorated feel.

The Love Body Wrap, another decadent option, a delightful treatment for two, starting with a cocoon wrap loaded with vitamin E, and culminating with a certified organic shea sugar exfoliation, before a resveratrol wrap to replenish the skin with antioxidants, nutrients and silky juniper extract body oil.

The Heavenly Valentine's Meltdown, for the ultimate romantic escape, offers moments of pure bliss, where the skin is scrubbed with sweet cream, polished, then covered with a rich, dark chocolate softening mask, and cocooned in a hot butter brûlée whole milk wrap. The finish, a warm sweet cream body milk massage.

Continue the Valentine's weekend adventure with a memorable evening at Sunset Grille, starting a delectable dinner with a welcome glass of sparkling wine. Patrons have a choice of starters, and entrees, while dessert delivers temptation, a Trilogy of Strawberry Pie, Chocolate Lover Cake, Rose Mousse, with red fruits coulis. The three-Course Valentine's Dinner is served February 12th 14th.

The resort's Sunset Concierge Dinner, with toes in the sand, features a special 3-course menu available exclusively on February, 14th. The evening begins with a welcome glass of sparkling wine and ends with a decadent 'Amores per Sempre' shared dessert for two, specially created by Executive Chef Olivier Falchi.

Enhancing the experience for the weekend, guests will have the opportunity to take photos on the beach during sunset with the resort's Pedicab, specially decorated with flowers and props for Valentine's celebration. This will be available February 12-14th. □



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\*Price is subject to 18% service charge.







**ORANJESTAD - Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, and the Netherlands agreed on the submission of the proposed Kingdom Act Caribbean Organ for Reform and Development (COHO).**

The Kingdom Act forms the foundation for a new form of multiyear cooperation between the countries in the Kingdom. Due to the COVID-19 pan-

demie, the economies of Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten were severely affected. The Netherlands offered assistance in combating COVID-19 and also supported food packages. They also provided one billion euros in emergency aid in the form of liquidity loans to support public finances in the event of a sudden halt in economic activity. As a condition for granting

## Agreement reached on Kingdom Act

liquidity loans, it has been agreed that the countries would accelerate reforms to strengthen them. The countries are keeping to that agreement. The aim is for the economy and society to better absorb a crisis in the future, which will enable the governments to offer new opportunities to residents and businesses. The establishment of an independent Caribbean Reform and Development Body was agreed upon to support the countries. In anticipation of the formal establishment of the COHO, a country package has been agreed with Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten each. The country packages' measures will be further developed per country in subsequent

implementation agendas for each Caribbean country to take steps in a way that suits them. COHO will support and supervise the implementation of subjects described in the packages. These tasks are now still performed by the Temporary Work Organization (TWO). The four countries have reached a final agreement on the elaboration of the Kingdom Act this week. The changes compared to previous consultations include clearer agreements with the countries about the processing of the national packages in the various budgets. It was also agreed that the existing objections regarding the powers of the financial supervisors C(A)ft will be further elaborated during the implementation phase. Also, the agreements on the possible implications of the elaboration of the cooperation protocol between the C(A)ft and the

COHO containing the mutual tasks, roles, and responsibilities will be established. COHO and the C(A)ft will consult with the governments of the countries on the cooperation protocol before it can be established or amended. Aruba, Curaçao, and St. Maarten have drawn attention to several concerns regarding the enforceability of the Act within the constitutional legal order. These concern the safeguarding of the governments' policy space and autonomy, the concurrence between C(A)ft and COHO, and the room for investments to implement the reforms and flanking policies. The Netherlands promised to enter into discussions and agreements on these matters. The bill will now go to the parliament of the countries and the Lower House of Parliament, and later in the process, the Senate will also debate it. □

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## Nicole Hoevertsz hands over medals to the international athletes at the Winter Olympics

**ORANJESTAD —** Mrs. Nicole Hoevertsz, COA Secretary General of the Aruba Olympic Committee and Vice President of the International Olympic Committee, had the honor to present the Gold medallion to the legendary Irene Wust of the Netherlands as she writes history in Beijing, China. Wust managed to conquer the gold medal at the 1500m skating competition

Aruba is very proud of Hoevertsz who is standing out internationally with athletes from around the world. □



# U.S. inflation highest in 40 years, with no letup in sight

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Inflation soared over the past year at its highest rate in four decades, hammering American consumers, wiping out pay raises and reinforcing the Federal Reserve's decision to begin raising borrowing rates across the economy.

The Labor Department said Thursday that consumer prices jumped 7.5% last month compared with a year earlier, the steepest year-over-year increase since February 1982. The acceleration of prices ranged across the economy, from food and furniture to apartment rents, airline fares and electricity.

When measured from December to January, inflation was 0.6%, the same as the previous month and more than economists had expected. Prices rose 0.7% from October to November and 0.9% from September to October.

Shortages of supplies and workers, heavy doses of federal aid, ultra-low interest rates and robust consumer spending combined to send inflation leaping in the past year. And there are few signs that it will slow significantly anytime soon. Wages are rising at the fastest pace in at least 20 years, which can pressure companies to raise prices to cover higher labor costs. Ports and warehouses are overwhelmed, with hundreds of workers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the nation's busiest, out sick last month. Many products and parts



A selection of beef cuts is displayed at a Publix Supermarket, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, in Miami. Associated Press

remain in short supply as a result.

Prices for a broad range of goods and services accelerated from December to January — and not just for items directly affected by the pandemic. Apartment rental costs rose 0.5% in January, the fastest pace in 20 years. Electricity prices surged 4.2% in January alone, the sharpest rise in 15 years, and are up 10.7% from a year earlier. Last month, household furniture and supplies rose 1.6%, the largest one-month increase on records dating to 1967. Food costs, driven by pricier eggs, cereal and dairy products, increased 0.9% in January. Air fares rose 2.3%. New car prices, which have jumped during the pandemic because of a shortage of computer chips, were unchanged last month but are up 12.2% from a year ago. The surge in new-car prices has, in turn, accelerated used-car prices; they rose 1.5% in January and are up a dizzying 41% from a year ago. "Just as price pressures in some areas ease, inflation in other parts of the economy" is picking up, said Sarah House, an economist at Wells Fargo. "The upshot is that inflation is likely to remain uncomfortably high." The steady rise in prices has left many Americans less

able to afford food, gas, rent, child care and other necessities. More broadly, inflation has emerged as the biggest risk factor for the economy and as a serious threat to President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats as midterm elections loom later this year.

Among the Americans who are struggling with pricier food and gas is Courtney Luckey, who has changed her shopping habits and taken on additional work shifts at a grocery store in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she lives.

Luckey, 33, used to be able to fill up a grocery cart for \$100. Now, she said, \$100 barely fills half the cart. Tomatoes have reached nearly \$5 a pound, "which I think is ridiculous." Luckey has switched to canned tomatoes and has begun using coupons for Family Dollar and Food Lion.

To help pay bills, she's also picked up more hours at a Harris Teeter grocery store. But the store is 30 minutes from her house, so she's had to spend more on gas. All her forced additional spending has caused Luckey to pull back on the family activities, such as bowling, with her daughter, her brother and his two sons. Those outings now typically happen once a month,

rather than every week or two.

Even excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core inflation jumped 0.6% from December to January and 6% from a year ago.

Stocks fell in morning trading after the release of the report, with the broad S&P 500 index down 0.6%. The yield on the 10-year bond jumped to nearly 2%, a sign that investors see more Fed rate hikes ahead.

In the past year, sharp increases in the costs of gas, food, autos and furniture have upended many other Americans' budgets, too. In December, economists at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School estimated that the average household had to spend \$3,500 more than in 2020 to buy an identical basket of goods and services.

Thursday's report will intensify pressure on the Fed and its chair, Jerome Powell, to tighten credit to try to slow the economy enough to cool inflation. Powell signaled two weeks ago that the central bank would likely raise its benchmark short-term rate multiple times this year, with the first hike almost surely coming at its next meeting in March. With the latest inflation data, some economists expect the Fed may decide

to raise its key rate in March by one-half a percentage point, rather than its typical quarter-point hike.

Over time, those higher rates will raise the costs for a wide range of borrowing, from mortgages and credit cards to auto and business loans. That could cool spending and inflation, but for the Fed, the risk is that in steadily tightening credit, it could trigger another recession.

Last week, the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage jumped to 3.69%, the highest level in more than two years, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac. Higher loan rates will elbow some would-be home buyers out of the market.

Many large corporations, in conference calls with investors, have said they expect supply shortages to persist until at least the second half of this year. Companies from Chipotle to Levi's have also warned that they will likely raise prices again this year, after having done so in 2021.

Chipotle said it's increased menu prices 10% to offset the rising costs of beef and transportation as well as higher employee wages. And the restaurant chain said it will consider further price increases if inflation keeps rising.

"We keep thinking that beef is going to level up and then go down, and it just hasn't happened yet," said John Hartung, the company's chief financial officer.

Executives at Chipotle, as well as at Starbucks and some other consumer-facing companies, have said their customers so far don't seem fazed by the higher prices.

Levi Strauss & Co. raised prices last year by roughly 7% above 2019 levels because of rising costs, including labor, and plans to do so again this year. Even so, the San Francisco-based company has upgraded its sales forecasts for 2022.

"Right now, every signal we're seeing is positive," CEO Chip Bergh told analysts. □

## ARUBA CLEAN



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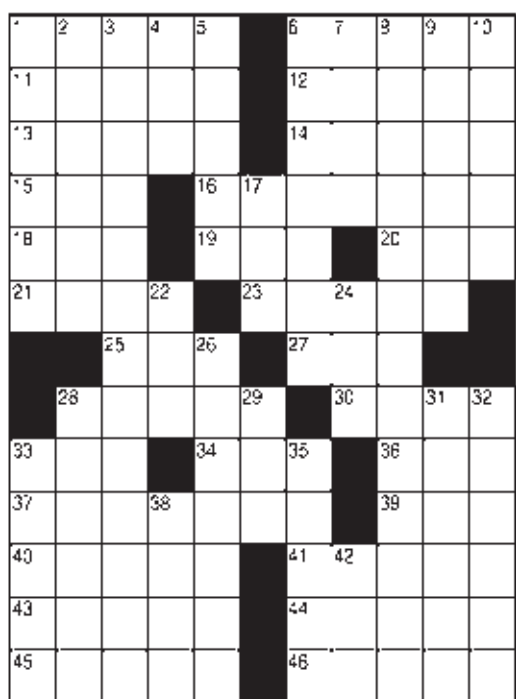
# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Signing need
  - 1 View obscurers
  - 6 Soup servings
  - 11 Still alive in a paintball battle
  - 12 Look forward to
  - 13 River to Lyons
  - 14 Mouth setting
  - 15 Scoundrel
  - 16 Razor target
  - 18 Boxing great
  - 19 Melancholy
  - 20 Tick off
  - 21 Longings
  - 23 Where-withal
  - 25 Chiding sound
  - 27 Skill
  - 28 Break the rules
  - 30 Restaurant VIP
  - 33 Opponent
  - 34 A thou thou
  - 36 Running bird
  - 37 Mating time

## DOWN

- 1 Tennis star Andy
- 2 Take a drag
- 3 Wild guess
- 4 Mint container
- 5 Worries path
- 6 "I wouldn't do that..."
- 7 Has debts
- 8 Easy task
- 9 Soda buys
- 10 Un-adorned
- 17 Deli choice
- 22 Be litigious
- 24 Pendulum
- 26 Mexican snacks
- 28 Get across
- 29 Director
- 31 Come into view
- 32 Backed
- 33 Banquet
- 35 Like salad greens
- 38 Hand over
- 42 Court



2-11

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-11

## CRYPTOQUOTE

QZB SBCFTR QZB DCX TE QZB

QSCRFOSEBFTS UF ZCSV UF

PBGCKFB UQ'F FT GSTDVBV.

IUR ZKPPCSV

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE TRUE CIVILIZATION IS WHERE EVERY MAN GIVES TO EVERY OTHER EVERY RIGHT THAT HE CLAIMS FOR HIMSELF — ROBERT INGERSOLL



Yesterday's answer

- 7 Has debts
- 8 Easy task
- 9 Soda buys
- 10 Un-adorned
- 17 Deli choice
- 22 Be litigious
- 24 Pendulum
- 26 Mexican snacks
- 28 Get across
- 29 Director
- 31 Come into view
- 32 Backed
- 33 Banquet
- 35 Like salad greens
- 38 Hand over
- 42 Court

# Experts hail big step forward in fusion technology in UK



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, 2nd left, talks with Professor Ian Chapman, CEO of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, left, Nanna Heiberg, 2nd right, and Joseph Milnes, head of engineering design unit, right, alongside the MAST Upgrade chamber, during his visit to the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) at the Culham Science Centre in Abingdon, southern England, Thursday Oct. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — European scientists have taken a significant step closer to mastering a technology that could allow them to one day harness nuclear fusion, providing a clean and almost limitless source of energy, British officials said Wednesday. Researchers at the Joint European Torus experiment near Oxford managed to produce a record amount of heat energy over a five-second period, which was the duration of the experiment, the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority said. The 59 megajoules of sustained fusion energy produced were more than double the previous record achieved in 1997. The agency said the result was "the clearest demonstration worldwide of the potential for fusion energy to deliver safe and sustainable low-carbon energy." "If we can maintain fusion for five seconds, we can do it for five minutes and then five hours as we scale up our operations in future

machines," said Tony Donne, program manager for EUROfusion. "This is a big moment for every one of us and the entire fusion community." Ian Chapman, CEO of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, said the results were a "huge step closer to conquering one of the biggest scientific and engineering challenges of them all." The facility, also known as JET, is home to the world's largest and most powerful operational tokamak — a donut-shaped device that is considered one promising method for performing controlled fusion. Scientists who were not involved in the project believed it was a significant result, but still a very long way from achieving commercial fusion power. Researchers around the world have long been working on nuclear fusion technology, trying different approaches. The ultimate goal is to generate power the way the sun generates heat, by pressing hydrogen

atoms so close to each other that they combine into helium, which releases torrents of energy. Carolyn Kuranz at the University of Michigan called the development "very exciting" and a step toward achieving "ignition," or when the fuel can continue to "burn" on its own and produce more energy than what's needed to spark the initial reaction. She said the results appeared "very promising" for ITER, a much larger experimental fusion facility in southern France that uses the same technology and is backed by many European countries, the United States, China, Japan, India, South Korea and Russia. It is expected to begin operation in 2026. Riccardo Betti, a fusion expert at the University of Rochester, said the achievement lay mainly in sustaining the reaction at high performance levels for five seconds, significantly longer than previously achieved in a tokamak. The amount of power gained was still well below the amount needed to perform the experiment, he added. Ian Fells, an emeritus professor of energy conversion at the University of Newcastle, described the new record as a landmark in fusion research. "Now it is up to the engineers to translate this into carbon-free electricity and mitigate the problem of climate change," he said. "Ten to 20 years could see commercialization." Stephanie Diem of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, said the technology used by JET to achieve the result, using magnets to control ultra-hot plasma, show that harnessing fusion — a process that occurs naturally in the stars — is physically feasible. "The next milestone on the horizon for magnetic fusion is to demonstrate scientific breakeven, where the amount of energy produced from fusion reactions exceeds that going into the device," she said. □

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# A sign of ransomware growth: Gangs now arbitrate disputes

By **ALAN SUDERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** — Cyber criminal gangs are getting increasingly adept at hacking and becoming more professional, even setting up an arbitration system to resolve payment disputes among themselves, according to a new report by the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom that paints a bleak picture of ransomware trends.

Ransomware gangs, which hack targets and hold their data hostage through encryption, caused widespread havoc last year with high-profile attacks on the world's largest meat-packing company, the biggest U.S. fuel pipeline and other targets. Western governments have pledged to crack down on the cyber criminals, who operate largely in and around Russia, but have little to show in the way of progress.

The new report on 2021 ransomware trends highlights the growing maturity and specialization of the ransomware market, with independent operators filling a lucrative niche market. Specialists now range from the hackers who can break into networks or develop ransomware to the non-technical operators who

negotiate payments with victims. The United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre said it's seen some ransomware gangs offer a 24/7 help center to victims to expedite ransom payments and restore encrypted data.

There's even money to be made by arbitrators who can settle payment disputes among the various ransomware criminals, according to the report.

"The criminal marketplace is incredibly, incredibly efficient and constantly evolving," said John Hultquist, vice president of intelligence analysis at the cybersecurity firm Mandiant. "The fact that they can operate like this, it's evidence of our failure to get a good grip on this problem."

The report also describes the growing technical skills of ransomware gangs, which have been able to target cloud infrastructure — often touted as a safer alternative to storing data locally — and developed code to stop industrial processes. U.S. authorities said they'd seen ransomware attacks involving 14 out of 16 designated critical infrastructure sectors, including the defense industrial base, agriculture and information technology sectors. □



The sign outside the National Security Administration (NSA) campus in Fort Meade, Md., June 6, 2013.

Associated Press



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# In 'Marry Me,' Jennifer Lopez leans into her stardom

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

Jennifer Lopez is very good at being very famous. That might sound more like a circumstance and not a rarified skill, but that's just because she'd never let you see the work behind it. The same goes for her competence as a romantic comedy heroine. She might not always get the best material, but her rom-com charm is undeniable and even underrated 25 years after her breakout in "Selena." The only time we as a culture seem to consider a performance of hers especially noteworthy is when she's in something more "serious" (see: "Out of Sight," "Hustlers").

It's what makes "Marry Me," her new rom-com in theaters and on Peacock TV Friday, so inspired. It allows her to lean into her utterly singular experience as a very, very famous person within the construct of her best genre. Though it says something that she, as pop star Kat Valdez, is the most believable part of the whole endeavor, a glossy and better-than-average fantasy about the pros of arranged marriage.

Now, "Marry Me" is not really pulling the curtain back



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Jennifer Lopez, right, and Maluma in a scene from "Marry Me."

Associated Press

on any dark secrets of celebrity, but it does play into Lopez's hopeless romantic persona within the confines of a PG-13 rating. Her Kat is a Lady Gaga-esque singer who has had some bad luck in the romance department, at least one divorce and one 48-hour marriage. She's supposed to marry Bastian (played by Colombian pop star Maluma) live in front of 20 million people as they per-

form their hit single "Marry Me," but right before she goes out on stage, draped in jewels, she (along with the rest of the world) sees a video of her intended cheating on her. Still, she's already got the dress and the venue, so she looks out in the audience, spots Owen Wilson's Charlie, and picks him to marry. It is the most movie rom-com set up that's ever existed, and this is a movie that wears

its love for the genre on its sleeve with knowing references to everything from "Pretty Woman" to "Notting Hill." Though she doesn't know it when she picks him, thankfully for Kat, Charlie is just a nice single dad to a sweet 13-year-old with a cool Brooklyn loft, a dog and a job as a high school math teacher. His baggage is minimal, his divorce amiable, he doesn't have a dark side and his flaws

are... unexplored. Is there eventual, inevitable, connection believable? No, not remotely. But you go along for the ride because Wilson is charming as a hangdog type and does enough with very little.

Directed by Kat Coiro, who did the pilot for the brilliant "Girls5Eva," and written by "Mindy Project" alum Harper Dill and "Catwoman" screenwriter John Rogers, "Marry Me" feels like an early aughts creation, right down to Kat's corduroy newsboy caps, back when studios used to regularly spend more than \$20 million on the genre. It breezes along thanks to its cast, including Sarah Silverman doing some heavy comedic lifting as Charlie's co-worker; John Bradley, of "Game of Thrones" fame, who is a nice presence as Kat's manager Collin; and Michelle Buteau as a very Hollywood assistant.

There's some hilariously obvious product placement and also a few celebrity cameos, from Hoda Kotb to Jimmy Fallon (whose show is somehow always on in the background and whose alter-ego is noticeably meaner than his real life persona). □

## Medical examiner: Bob Saget died from unseen blow to head



Bob Saget arrives at a screening of "MacGruber" on Dec. 8, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — A medical examiner in Florida said Thursday that comedian Bob Saget died from an accidental blow to the head, likely from a

backwards fall.

Saget was found dead Jan. 9 in a Florida hotel room. He'd performed in the area the night before as part of a stand-up tour. A toxicology analysis didn't show any illicit drugs or

toxins in Saget's body, according to a statement from Medical Examiner Joshua Stephany in Orlando.

An autopsy report released later Thursday showed that Saget had an abrasion on his scalp, a fracture at the base of his skull, fractures around his eye sockets, bleeding between the brain and tissue covering the brain as well as bruises to the brain. Saget was positive for COVID-19 but had no inflammation in his respiratory system, according to the report.

"His injuries were most likely incurred from an unattended fall," the statement said. "The manner of death is accident."

The medical examiner's conclusion was first announced by Saget's family

on Wednesday.

"The authorities have determined that Bob passed from head trauma," their statement said. "They have concluded that he accidentally hit the back of his head on something, thought nothing of it and went to sleep. No drugs or alcohol were involved."

The 65-year-old entertainer was found on his hotel bed at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando. A hotel security officer entered the room after Saget failed to check out, and called 911. There were no signs of foul play, authorities said last month. Best known for his role as beloved single dad Danny Tanner on the sitcom "Full House" and as the wise-cracking host of "America's Funniest Home Videos," Saget was married to Kelly

Rizzo Saget and had three daughters from a previous marriage.

Saget was on the road as part of his "I Don't Do Negative Comedy Tour," and said just before his death that he enjoyed warm audience receptions in Orlando and the Ponte Vedra Beach resort area.

"I'm back in comedy like I was when I was 26. I guess I'm finding my new voice and loving every moment of it," he'd posted on Instagram.

Saget's death prompted an outpouring of affection from fans and colleagues, who recalled him as both funny and extraordinarily kind. His family said they were overwhelmed and comforted by "the incredible outpouring of love from Bob's fans." □



# Chen, Kim soar to Olympic gold medals on best day for U.S.

By **BERNIE WILSON**

**BEIJING (AP)** — Nathan Chen soared effortlessly and nearly perfectly five times during his "Rocketman" performance.

When his skates touched down for the final time in a historic arena in Beijing, he was an Olympic gold medalist.

Up at Genting Snow Park, Chloe Kim nailed all five jumps on her first run through the Secret Garden Olympic halfpipe, enough for her to easily defend her Olympic title on Thursday.

It was the United States' best day yet at the Beijing Games. The United States also won gold in the Olympics' first mixed team aerials event, giving it a total of four gold medals and 10 overall.

Chen, whose parents immigrated from China, had a memorable free skate to finally put behind him the immense disappointment from four years ago, when a nightmarish short program in South Korea dashed his medal hopes.

Skating his "Rocketman" program set to the film score by Elton John, the 22-year-old Chen landed all five of his quads to leave no question he was the best in the world. He finished with 332.60 points, three off his own world record and 22 ahead of silver medalist Yuma Kagiyama of Japan. Shoma Uno of Japan took bronze.

"It means the world. I'm just so happy," said Chen, who was relaxed and expressive throughout his routine.

Chen, who is from Salt Lake City, took off with an opening quad salchow. He effortlessly landed four more quads. He had a slight bobble on a late combination sequence.

When his scores were read, coach Rafael Arutyunyan raised Chen's left arm like a championship boxer.

In the Capital Indoor Stadium, where the United States and China played the first matches of the pingpong diplomacy in 1971, Chen made some history of his own by capping one of the most dominant four-year runs in skating history.



**Nathan Chen, of the United States, competes in the men's free skate program during the figure skating event at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, in Beijing.**

Associated Press

Since his disappointment in Pyeongchang, Chen has won three straight world championships — the 2020 competition was canceled because of the pandemic — and extended his run of national championships to six.

Chen is the first American figure skating champion since Evan Lysacek in 2010.

## KIM'S CORONATION

Chloe Kim was so good on her first run down the halfpipe that it didn't matter that she failed to land a big trick on her last run, aka the victory lap. The 21-year-old, who started snowboarding as a kid in Southern California, became the first woman to win consecutive Olympic titles on the halfpipe.

The last rider into the halfpipe on the first run, Kim landed all five jumps, including a front and back-side 1080 — three spins each — and a 900. She seemed to amaze even herself, twice putting her hands to her head at the end of the run, which earned a score of 94.

Kim had struggled in practice before the competition began.

"I was just so proud of myself. I had the worst practice ever," she said. "I probably landed my run twice when I'm used to landing it eight times. That kind of

puts you in a weird headspace."

IOC President Thomas Bach and China's superstar freestyle skier Eileen Gu were in the crowd. Gu even hugged Kim between runs. Queralt Castellet of Spain took the silver medal in her fifth Olympics. Sena Tomita of Japan held off Cai Xuetong of China for bronze. Shaun White will try for his second straight halfpipe gold medal and fourth overall on Friday in his fifth and final Olympics. Kim joined White as the only

snowboarders to win back-to-back halfpipe golds. White did it in 2006 and 2010. After finishing fourth in Sochi, the 35-year-old from Carlsbad, California, returned to the top of the podium in 2018.

## SHIFFRIN RESETS

The U.S. ski team said two-time Olympic gold medalist Mikaela Shiffrin will compete in the super-G on Friday. Shiffrin failed to finish both the giant slalom and slalom, missing a gate within seconds of starting each race.

She had two training runs on the super-G course Thursday. The 26-year-old from Colorado never has entered a super-G at an Olympics but did win it at the 2019 world championships.

"I will try to reset again, and maybe try to reset better this time," Shiffrin said after the slalom. "But I also don't know how to do better because," she continued, before pausing, "because I just don't."

Shiffrin is trying to become the first Alpine ski racer from the United States to win three Olympic golds across a career.

## MIXED TEAM AERIALS

The American trio of Ashley Caldwell, Christopher Lillis and Justin Schoenefeld each earned their first Winter Games medals in mixed team aerials, the first time the United States medaled in the freestyle skiing discipline in a dozen years. Lillis' back double full-full-double full was given the highest score of any trick in the finals, and the U.S. title was assured when Schoenefeld followed with a clean back double full-full-full.

## FOLLOWING HIS FATHER

Austrian skier Johannes Strolz won the Olympic gold medal in the Alpine combined race 34 years after his father, Hubert, did the same. □

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# AP sources: Nets send Harden to 76ers for Simmons

**AP Sports Writers**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Ben Simmons got his wish, a trade out of Philadelphia. The 76ers got their second superstar, with James Harden coming over in a blockbuster multiplayer trade with the Brooklyn Nets. The Sixers sent Simmons,

their disgruntled star, guard Seth Curry and center Andre Drummond to the Nets in a deal for Harden. The Sixers also will get Paul Millsap and the Nets get draft picks, according to people with direct knowledge of the decision.

The move was confirmed

Thursday by the people who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been announced.

The move came just five days after coach Steve Nash said the Nets wouldn't trade Harden and only 13

months after they acquired the 2018 NBA MVP to play with Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving.

But Harden could have left this summer as a free agent and the Nets decided it wasn't worth the risk to wait, ending their Big Three experiment after the

trio played only 16 games together.

Simmons did not play this season for the Sixers in the wake of a trade demand centered largely around hurt feelings coming off last season's playoff loss. Simmons averaged 15.9 points, 8.1 rebounds and 7.7 assists over four seasons with Philadelphia, which drafted him out of LSU, where he played only one season.

His defining moment as a Sixer came when he passed up a wide-open dunk against Atlanta in the second round of last year's playoffs that would have tied the game late in Game 7.

Simmons was hurt by criticism from teammate Joel Embiid and coach Doc Rivers over his role in Philly's early postseason exit.

Simmons made a surprise return to the Sixers shortly before the season opened, but was promptly kicked out of practice and suspended for one game. The punishment didn't matter, the No. 1 pick of the 2016 draft had no intention of ever playing. He later cited mental health concerns.

Harden was set to miss his fourth straight game Thursday with a hamstring injury while trade rumors intensified.

The Nets acquired the three-time scoring champion from the Houston Rockets in a deal last January, with the idea that Harden, Durant and Irving would be too potent to stop. The Nets loaded up for a title run with three of the highest-paid players in the league but a championship run with them never materialized.

Harden and Irving were both hurt last year in the playoffs and the Nets lost in the second round to eventual champion Milwaukee. With Irving not joining the Nets until December and Durant injured in January, the Nets got only two games out of their Big Three this season.

They are 2-10 since Durant sprained his left knee, an injury that could keep him out until after the All-Star break. □

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